

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED!

Wycombe Wanderers 3,
Oxford City 0

Wanderers dominate Oxford in 'derby'

WITH a sound 3-0 League in and only light injury problems to worry them before tomorrow's big match, Wycombe Wanderers achieved both major objectives at Loakes Park on Wednesday evening.

It gave encouragement to either Isthmian League leaders, Milton, nor Amateur Cup opponents, Enfield.

It's unlikely it did much for Oxford City either. Severely weakened injuries and unavailability of the White House side had failed in their efforts to have this match postponed. They suffered accordingly.

SAME PATTERN

Wednesday followed much the same pattern perpetuated by Wycombe all season. The Blues ways had the measure of their opponents, and never seemed in doubt.

But then that situation rarely alters these days. Their positive approach continues to dominate the game they play, and Ox-

ford, beaten 9-0 on their last visit to Loakes Park, were again left clinging to defence.

In that department, though, the City had their moments. Goalkeeper Farris made at least two spectacular saves that would have done a contortionist proud, and centre-half Stokes also remained alert under waves of Wycombe pressure.

Wanderers, never extended throughout a match lacking the customary thrills of this 'derby', had their star performers also.

Charlie Gale at right back made every effort to seal his Cup-tie place, while most likely candidate Keith Blunt watched as substitute.

Meanwhile, Vince Faulkner took over as the leading light at centre back as Ian Rundle covered for the injured John

Delaney; Bernie Bremer showed exceptional interest in the proceedings; Johnny Hutchinson generally made a nuisance of himself in among the Oxford defence; and Ted Powell kept the visitors handcuffed from midfield.

HERO . . . VILLAIN

Hero and villain all in the same game was Tony Horseman, generously letting City off the hook with at least two glaring misses, but playing a major part in all Wycombe's goals.

'Bodger' shot carelessly from 20 yards out with only Farris to beat in the 12th minute, and Oxford survived again when the 'keeper magnificently back-dived to pluck a Larry Pritchard header from under the crossbar.

City could never relax while

Bremer was on the prowl, and Hutchinson's cross almost gave him a goal. Instead, his swooping header flew marginally high after 26 minutes.

Two minutes later, with Horseman grafting hard, and Keith Searle giving strong support, Hutchinson broke the visitors' covering. He slipped Farris' challenge before calmly whipping the ball into an open goal.

Searle saw a shot checked on the line, and Farris collected a lethal kick from Powell which flew in from 25 yards.

NO EQUALISER

All the while Oxford's two-man strike force looked dangerous only twice, and an equaliser unlikely.

Referee Smith, from Enfield (it seems there's no escaping

that place) spoilt Faulkner's moment of glory by whistling for a free kick after he bundled the ball home from 40th-minute corner.

Wycombe resumed their search for goals in the second half, turned up trumps in 12 minutes as a now familiar criss-cross movement along the goal caught City looking both ways. Pritchard flicked in the second at the far post.

Oxford substitute Silton placed Ross as a sudden change burst sent supporters scurrying for cover in the 63rd minute.

But the downpour had cut off by the 75th minute, and Horseman set Wycombe up a third, centring for Searle, stationed in front of goal, to score by copy-book style.

His work done for the night, Horseman was pulled off. Blunt with ten minutes to go.

The striker suffered a knock during the night which upset Wycombe's Cup plans.

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Fusc; Faulkner; Rundle; Gale; Bremer; Hutchinson; Searle; Pritchard; Horseman (sub.; Blunt, 63 mins.).

OXFORD: Farris; Mitchell; Wood; Metcalfe; Stokes; Worthington; Holfield; Ross (sub.; 63 mins.); Grafton; Marcham.

Half-time: 1-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Hutchinson (28), Pritchard (57), Searle (75).